

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2012
TIME: Chairman Goedde called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M. and asked the secr
PLACE: Room WW2
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Pearce, Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, Malepeai, and LeFavour
ABSENT/ EXCUSED:

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies, and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Goedde** welcomed all Idaho School Board Association (ISBA) members and Superintendents to the committee. He called on **Karen Echeverria**, Executive Director, ISBA and she introduced **Dallas Clinger**, President, ISBA, to make the presentation to the committee.

Dallas Clinger thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak. He stated that he represents the 550 school board trustees and 113 school districts that ISBA represents. He then introduced ISBA officers **Ann Ritter**, Meridian, President Elect; **Todd Wells**, Castleford, Vice President; and **Brian Duncan**, Minidoka, Immediate Past President.

Mr. Clinger stated that the ISBA is celebrating the 70th anniversary. The organization began in 1942 when there were about 1150 school districts and by 1954 the state of Idaho consolidated into 208 districts, and currently there are 115 districts in the state. In 1942 the student enrollment was 111,331 and enrollment today is approximately 281,000. The ISBA represents the most elected officials of any elected body in the state. Each of the eight regions that make up the ISBA has four officers that also sit on the board's executive committee. There are five full time employees and three trainers that work out of the office to train trustees across the state. ISBA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide leadership to local school boards for the benefit of students and advocacy of public education.

Mr. Clinger concluded his presentation saying on behalf of all the trustees of Idaho, thank you for your service to Idaho and especially to the children of Idaho. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #1).

Chairman Goedde complemented the ISBA on **Karen** and **Jessica's** professional work. They are good representatives of the association to the legislature, working collaboratively to accomplish the goals. He then asked if there were questions from the committee

Senator Andreason asked about the American Falls school having a high minority population with limited English speakers; does the Student's Come First (SCF) initiative work well in that school. **Mr. Clinger** responded that often there is extra time spent with those students to help them learn English. The SCF's one to one devices will help those students learn English. Statistics show that English as second language learners learn English better using a computing device.

Chairman Goedde said in the visit that he and others had taken to Klein, Texas the information they gathered showed the students that did not have computing devices were 25 percent lower in their English speaking proficiency than those who did have the computing devices.

Senator Fulcher thanked **Mr. Clinger** and the ISBA. He asked if the association is following the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) at the federal and local level. What is ISBA's position regarding that legislation. **Mr. Clinger** referred the question to **Karen Echeverria**. She said that she had just returned from Washington D.C. at the leadership conference of the National School Board Association and NCLB is the top discussion. Something will need to be done at the Federal level. This initiative has gone too long without being reauthorized by Congress, until that happens the states need some mechanism to monitor progress. The waiver process is a good option. At this time, the ISBA does not have a position on the waivers.

Chairman Goedde asked **Ms. Echeverria** if they have heard anything about Representative Kline's bills that would totally change ESEA. **Ms. Echeverria** commented those were not discussed at the conference.

Having no more questions, **Chairman Goedde** thanked **Mr. Clinger** and the ISBA members for attending the committee meeting.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Brian Whitlock**, Battelle Energy Alliance which manages the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) for the U.S. Department of Energy. **Mr. Whitlock** said that he was here to give the committee an update on the Center of Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) which is a unique collaborative effort between the INL and the three Idaho universities. Today's presentation will be an educational overview showing the work of students at the center. **Mr. Whitlock** introduced **Dr. Bill Rogers**, the Director for the CAES to give the presentation.

Chairman Goedde welcomed **Dr. Rogers** to the committee. **Dr. Rogers** gave his presentation to the committee highlighting the work and progress of CAES. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #2)

Dr. Rogers introduced the CAES intern **Damon Wood**, from Boise, Idaho, working for a Masters in Mechanical Engineering. **Mr. Wood's** project with CAES is the study of alternative energy sources of predicting turbine performance in irrigation ditches. The idea is to insert turbines in irrigation ditches and they will offset some of the peak power loads during the irrigation season as well as supplying additional electricity to area plants. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #3). **Mr. Wood** concluded by thanking the committee for the support they give to this project.

Senator Pearce stated to **Mr. Wood** that this is interesting. He asked how low the water flow can be for power generation. **Mr. Wood** replied that a decent amount of power can be extracted out of low flow operation.

Dr. Roger's then introduced **Daniel Cotton** from Burley, Idaho. He is a junior at Boise State University and a CAES intern working in the industrial assessment center. This center's purpose is to help small to medium size manufacturers by accessing their energy efficiency, waste minimization, and profitable productivity. All the assessments and research is done by the students. His presentation reflected his experience. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #4).

Having no questions from the committee, **Chairman Goedde** called **Dr. Rogers** to the podium to conclude the presentation. He asked if the committee had any questions regarding any of the presentations.

Senator Fulcher asked if **Mr. Wood** or **Mr. Cotton** or others in the program develop a process or system that is classified as ownership property that has value, who owns that is intellectual property. **Dr. Rogers** replied there are several mechanisms for working with the federal government. The intellectual property rights are outlined in the contracts the agencies have agreed upon. Basically, if it is learned together at the sites then it is shared with the partners. If they bring already developed concepts it remains theirs. There are mechanisms for trying to apply for patents and commercializing the property.

Chairman Goedde said there is some place that a group is working on isotopes for medical applications. He asked if that was part of CAES. **Dr. Rogers** replied yes. There is a company in Pocatello that is working on that project. There are five research initiatives and one is nuclear science and engineering. One of the major projects there is developing medical isotopes. **Chairman Goedde** said it sounds like there is tremendous potential business for that process and will bring patients to Southeastern Idaho; the isotope half life is so short that patients must travel to the isotope site. **Dr. Rogers** said there is a shortage in the U.S. for medical isotopes. Most come from Canada. Canada is in the process of shutting down the reactors due to safety violations and when that happens, the only place to go is Belgium. The U.S. needs to take a leadership role in that area.

Chairman Goedde thanked **Dr. Rogers** for his time and information and then called Senator Fulcher to the podium.

S 1301

Senator Fulcher presented **S 1301** to the education committee. He said he was pleased to come before the committee with this piece of legislation. This bill has to do with student access for extracurricular activities. This is the result of work with the Idaho High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), the State Department of Education (SDE) and stakeholders making resolutions. This bill is the outcome of those discussions. It gives the SDE an assignment. They must find and implement accreditation requirements for schools to participate and compete in league extracurricular activities. With the expansion of school choice options (including public charter schools, private schools magnet schools, alternative schools, etc.), conflict has arisen regarding which schools should have access to extra-curricular activities administered by IHSAA. Just recently the accreditation agency that was hired by the state, Northwest Accreditation, was bought out. Temporarily there is not an accreditation agency for that matter.

There are groups that are in flux. There are schools that are associate members that cannot be full members and there are schools that are accredited via third party accrediting agencies, and consequently worried whether or not their academic requirements (as they pertain to extra-curricular activities) remain recognized by the state once the state replaces the accrediting agency. In an attempt to reconcile the issue, this bill tells the SDE to develop and implement an accreditation process. This only affects how the IHSAA recognizes academic status.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked **Senator Fulcher** what discussions has he had with the SDE. **Senator Fulcher** replied that there were a variety of ways groups were looking to solve this issue. Through discussion with the SDE and IHSAA, they have come to consensus that accreditation needs to be honored and there needs to be a state recognized process.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked if SDE were part of the discussion. If so were they agreeable to do this. **Senator Fulcher** replied yes.

Senator Malepeai asked if the ISHAA is membership driven and what is the relationship with the SDE. How do the two work together. **Senator Fulcher** said the ISHA is a private entity that operates with their own policies and rules. The connection with the state is in their policies. For a school to have full membership status the school's academic status has to be recognized by the state. The conflict is that the recognized accreditation company no longer is in business, so now schools waiting to be accredited have no place to get the status. **Senator Malepeai** asked are there any other accreditation companies in the area. **Senator Fulcher** replied yes there is a long list. As it relates to this issue the IHSAA policy is for a school to be a full member they either need to be recognized by whoever the accrediting agency is for the state, or a third party affiliate recognized by the agencies. There are several agencies.

Senator Pearce asked how many schools are currently in the association. **Senator Fulcher** replied he didn't know; there are a number of them.

Chairman Goedde asked the audience if there was anyone that would like to testify to this bill. **Jerry Keane**, Superintendent of Post Falls School District and a member of the ISHA board of directors, indicated this is a complicated matter. In regards to the questions there is a relationship with the SDA. They have a representative that participates at all the board meetings. Policies of the ISHAA state very clearly that they don't want to be in the accreditation business and for a school to be a member they must be accredited and recognized by the state of Idaho.

Chairman Goedde said that it was probably unfair to unexpectedly call on him, but his expertise was recognized.

Ms. Chris Ellis testified on behalf of herself. She said she has coached cross country in a small school. Her school's team has been allowed to participate and compete in district and state meets. Some of the smaller schools that they run against are not allowed to compete for state or district titles. This is unfortunate for the students that are not eligible for they face the loss of scholarship opportunities and the incentive to win.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Mortimer moved, seconded by **Senator Winder**, to send **S 1301** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Discussion came from **Senator Malepeai**. He said he was going to vote to send this to the floor, but he would like some more information so he may not have an affirmative vote on the floor depending on what he finds. Motion is carried by voice vote. **Senator Fulcher** will carry the bill on the floor.

Chairman Goedde gave kudos to **Phil Homer, Harold Ott, and Rob Winslow** for the great work they do on behalf of school administrators. He said that there was time for the committee to answer any questions from the audience. **Ms. Echeverria** asked if there was a better way for the Idaho School Board Association to communicate with committee members during the off season. The consensus was to please email the Senators.

ADJOURN:

Having no more questions, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:13 P.M.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

LeAnn South
Secretary